United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.1

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 September 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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09-52486 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Election of the Bureau

1. **The Chairperson** said that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure, the following candidates had been endorsed to serve as the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee for its sixty-fourth session: Mr. Diallo (Guinea), endorsed by the Group of African States; Mr. García González (El Salvador), endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Mr. Mićić (Serbia), endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States. For the office of Rapporteur, the candidacy of Ms. McQuade (Ireland) had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

2. *Mr. Diallo (Guinea), Mr. García González (El Salvador) and Mr. Mićić (Serbia) were elected Vice-Chairpersons and Ms. McQuade (Ireland) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

3. **The Chairperson** recalled that no procedures were currently in place to ensure the equitable rotation of the post of Rapporteur among the regional groups. The Committee should therefore consider coming to an understanding regarding the details for such equitable rotation in the coming weeks.

Statement by the Chairperson

4. **The Chairperson** said that, during the main part of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Committee had used 82 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost over 23 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. While the Committee had thus improved on its statistics for the sixty-second session, he intended to ensure that the Committee made a further improvement at the current session.

5. In that connection, the Committee's meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If there were few or no speakers inscribed for a particular meeting, the time and the conference services should be utilized either for negotiations or for meetings of interest groups. In view of the limited time available and the new working methods in place, it was important for the Committee to function more efficiently and to maximize the use of its time.

6. The list of speakers for both the Committee's general debate and the agenda items allocated to it was now open. Delegations were requested to inscribe as soon as possible to enable the Committee to plan its work more efficiently. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers, unless it had made arrangements to change places with another delegation.

7. He suggested that speakers should be limited to 10 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements under individual agenda items, with some flexibility for the representatives of interest groups. He urged speakers to confine themselves to the salient points of their statements and to provide copies of longer statements for distribution. Similarly, introductions by the Secretariat should be limited to 10 minutes. Representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes were explicitly requested to focus their statements on selected issues of concern to them and, if possible, to provide copies of their statements for distribution. He intended to notify all speakers when their time was running out.

8. He drew attention to the Committee's proposed organization of work as contained in document A/C.2/64/L.1, which was largely based on the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 58/316 and decision 62/543, as well as the recommendations of the Bureaux of the Committee at the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the General Assembly.

9. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) informed the Committee of a potential change to the draft programme of work and noted that any modifications necessary to the organization of work, pursuant to decisions of the General Committee, would be reflected in a revised document to be issued as A/C.2/64/L.1/Rev.1. For ease of reference, the Secretariat had also circulated the proposed organization of work in tabular form.

10. **The Chairperson** noted that the agenda items to be allocated to the Second Committee by the General Assembly would be contained in a letter from the President of the General Assembly, which would be issued as document A/C.2/64/1.

11. He recalled several important changes in working methods adopted by the Committee. Draft resolutions under the various agenda items would be negotiated and adopted by the Committee throughout the session, rather than at the end. Delegations were therefore requested to do their utmost to facilitate the adoption

of draft proposals by the deadlines recommended in document A/C.2/64/L.1. As noted in the guidelines for the submission of draft proposals for processing by the Secretariat which had been circulated, the Secretariat required 48 hours to process and issue draft proposals. Unless such modalities were respected, the Committee ran the risk of returning to its much-criticized past practice.

12. In the spirit of General Assembly resolution 50/227, draft resolutions should continue to be more concise and action-oriented.

13. Since informal negotiations would be held early in the session, facilitators must be appointed and draft proposals submitted on time. He urged those interested in facilitating negotiations or submitting draft proposals to respect the deadlines that were being recommended. If necessary, he would consider scheduling informal consultations prior to the adoption of draft proposals at the recommendation of the Bureau.

14. Time had been set aside in the draft programme of work for a number of special events in which prominent experts would be invited to discuss some of the most pressing challenges facing the world, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals, combating climate change and ensuring food security. Interpretation for the special events would be on an "if available" basis.

15. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the special events had been designed to facilitate a proactive dialogue between Committee members and a broad range of experts, including specialists from academia and civil society. As such, their primary purpose was to enable Committee members to take decisions and adopt resolutions on an informed basis.

16. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the full list of special events scheduled to take place in the form of panel discussions. Other issues suggested by Member States for discussion included the legal empowerment of the poor, global social protection, and migration and development. In selecting the speakers and moderators for the panels, he stressed that every effort would be made to balance the interests of all groups of States.

17. He recalled that two key elements were required for the successful completion of the Committee's programme of work. One was discipline in honouring the deadlines for submission of draft proposals indicated in the organization of work document (A/C.2/64/L.1). The other was the full utilization of time in between the consideration of items for delegations to prepare draft proposals, establish group positions or conduct informal consultations.

Organization of work

18. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/64/L.1. The general debate was scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 October 2009. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs would address the Committee before the opening of the general debate. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 24 November 2009, which might be adjusted, however, in the light of the decision by the General Assembly to hold its fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 23 and 24 November 2009. The target date was based on the time required for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued as documents for consideration by the General Assembly prior to its recess, and for the Fifth Committee to be seized of the Committee's recommendations.

19. With regard to the target date of 24 November 2009, he recalled that during the previous session, in addition to its primary duties, the Committee had been responsible for preparing for the Doha Review Conference, which had included negotiating the draft outcome document. However, despite an already heavy workload, the Committee had been able to accomplish the bulk of its work prior to the Conference. Similarly, the Committee would be faced with time constraints during the current session in the light of the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009. He would therefore spare no effort in ensuring that the Committee completed its work on time. He trusted that he would have delegations' full cooperation in that regard.

20. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that the Group had requested additional time to consider both the note by the Secretary-General on innovative sources of financing for development (A/59/272), including the possibility of introducing a sub-item in order to consider that document, and the report of the

Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/64/253).

21. The Group welcomed the informative nature of special events and supported the efforts under way to find a balance in terms of the list of speakers invited to participate in those discussions. In that connection, the Group requested the inclusion of additional side events to discuss three important issues: commodities, the status of negotiations at the World Trade Organization and global public health.

22. **Mr. Fries** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the decision to address such priority issues as the legal empowerment of the poor within the context of special events. At the same time, he stressed that it was also important for the Bureau to take into account the already heavy workload facing delegations.

23. The European Union fully supported the working methods adopted by the Committee, which had improved in recent years. All Committee members should work to continue that positive trend. It was particularly important to conclude the Committee's work on schedule, before Thanksgiving Day, since both the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference and the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation were due to be held shortly thereafter.

24. **Mr. Sauma** (Mexico) said that his delegation agreed that it was important for the Committee to have additional time to discuss the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries. His delegation was also grateful to the Bureau for the flexibility that it had shown in accommodating the forthcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. Finally, it supported the suggestion that the Committee's work should be concluded before Thanksgiving Day.

25. **Ms. Navarro Barro** (Cuba) said that it would be extremely useful for all delegations to have an updated list of the proposed events and keynote speakers for the special events. In that connection, it was important to ensure equitable representation of countries of the South in the list of keynote speakers. Her delegation also stressed that the issue of trade should be discussed in the context of a special event.

26. **The Chairperson** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work annexed to document A/C.2/64/L.1, as orally revised, on the understanding that it might have to be adjusted further as the session progressed.

27. *It was so decided.*

28. **The Chairperson** drew attention to document A/C.2/64/L.1/Add.1, the annex to which provided information on the status of documentation before the Committee as at 11 September 2009.

29. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as in previous years, the Committee would have at its disposal "QuickPlace", a secure online shared workspace. Instructions on the use of the tool and a registration form had been circulated.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

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20 October 2009

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

General debate

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09-54142 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Statement by the Chairperson

1. **The Chairperson** noted that numerous unprecedented global crises posed a serious threat to the international community's efforts to achieve global peace and prosperity and might reverse the development gains of decades. Nations must find common ground and act together. Indeed, the importance of multilateralism and collective action had been a common theme in the general debate in plenary. As various speakers had stated, it was time for renewed multilateralism and a stronger, more united United Nations. Many of the current challenges fell within the purview of the Committee. Member States must cast aside their differences and work together to craft collective responses and to chart a path towards sustainable development. The task ahead was daunting, but much could be achieved if the current political momentum was seized. The Committee Bureau and secretariat would work hard to support the Committee in its endeavours.

2. Climate change was the pre-eminent issue of the twenty-first century. The Summit on Climate Change, held in September 2009, had attested to the gravity of global warming and the urgent need for action. As the Secretary-General himself had said, failure to reach broad agreement at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009, would be morally inexcusable, economically short-sighted and politically unwise. The Committee must make a strong call for the adoption of a successful global climate change agreement at that meeting. The Committee Bureau and secretariat would be organizing a number of side events on climate change.

3. The global financial crisis demonstrated the urgent need to revitalize the international financial system. Despite some signs of recovery, the crisis was far from over in many countries. The Committee must send a clear message on how best to address the impacts of the crisis and set a path towards a more equitable and stable international economic and financial order. To prevent similar crises in the future, a number of global initiatives had been introduced to address the underlying inadequacies of that order. The Committee should avoid duplication and create synergies among those initiatives, while duly reflecting the views of all Member States.

4. As the international community began preparing for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010 to review the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals, it should reflect on lessons learned and consider how the meeting could strengthen international support for those Goals.

5. Though food prices had stabilized, the global food crisis continued. Food shortages could be catastrophic, as they rapidly affected many people. While more effective humanitarian responses were vital, the issue of food security must also be addressed from a long-term perspective, by emphasizing sustainable agricultural development. In that connection, he welcomed the decision by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to convene a World Summit on Food Security in Rome in November 2009.

6. The many issues under consideration would be the subject of a major global event in the near future. He was confident that, with constructive approaches, the Committee would be able to contribute to that event by injecting new ideas and by galvanizing momentum for action.

Statement by the Deputy Secretary-General

7. Lastly, the Committee Bureau and secretariat would be organizing a series of special events during the session. Panellists would be selected on the basis of balanced geographical representation and their experience and views. Details of those events would be distributed soon. He looked forward to the active and constructive participation of all delegations.

8. **Ms. Migiro** (Deputy Secretary-General) said that, while the world economy was finally stabilizing, the recovery process was shaky and unemployment was still high around the world. An additional 100 million people could fall into poverty by the end of the year. The H1N1 influenza virus had been identified in 180 countries, and it was spreading.

9. Climate change remained one of the most pressing challenges of the day. Developed countries recognized that they must take radical measures to reduce their own emissions and provide financial and

technological support to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation.

10. While the Group of 20 (G-20) leaders had taken decisions that had played an important role in mitigating the financial crisis, a more inclusive decision-making process would be critical to ensure implementation and a fair and balanced regulatory framework. Therefore, the collaboration between the G-20 and the United Nations must be institutionalized.

11. Various United Nations bodies were working to address the food crisis, counter protectionism and advance the conclusion of the Doha Round. The Green Economy Initiative was based on the premise that investing in green sectors was beneficial both economically and environmentally. Other initiatives focused on decent work, social protection, technological innovation, investment incentives and strong legal frameworks. Work was being done at the highest level to allow the poor and vulnerable a greater voice and to work for legal empowerment of the poor.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

12. **Mr. Sha** Zukang (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the multiple crises which threatened development also had implications for peace, security and human rights. The global financial and economic crisis, the worst in 70 years, had come on top of energy, food security and climate change crises. The implications had been clearly articulated by the United Nations system — and they were alarming. Evidence indicated that, in 2009, global trade would fall for the first time in 27 years; unemployment would increase worldwide; global gross domestic product (GDP) would decline; up to 100 million more people than had been expected before the crisis would be trapped in poverty; more pressure would be placed on already strained natural resources; and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals would be set back, impacting the poor and the vulnerable most severely. Despite unprecedented international cooperation and tentative signs of recovery, there was no room for complacency. Neither should concerted actions be rolled back. Furthermore, the need was not only for fiscal and monetary stimulus.

13. The recovery must be sustainable and green and must advance an integrated approach to the multiple crises. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs supported the call for a global green new deal for sustainable development, which would enable large-scale transformational investments in energy production and use, provide skills training and transfer, and create millions of green jobs in developed and developing countries. More broadly, the crisis response must be aligned with long-term investments in clean energy, food security and poverty reduction in developing countries, to help generate concrete progress towards both development and climate goals, which must go hand in hand. The recent G-20 agreement to establish a framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth was welcome if it meant pursuing a global growth path with low emissions and high growth for developing countries. Such a path was the focus of the World Economic and Social Survey 2009 and of the Department's related policy briefs, which were designed to assist Member States in reaching agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. The Committee would also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on climate change and its possible security implications, which showed sustainable development to be the most effective threat minimizer and especially important for strengthening adaptive capacity in the most vulnerable countries.

14. The systemic roots of the crisis must be addressed and efforts to reform the international financial architecture redoubled. Strengthening institutional frameworks so as to address the potential impact of volatile capital flows and unfettered markets more adequately and effectively was an urgent task. The important steps promised by the G-20 needed to be incorporated in national legislation. Moreover, it would be difficult to achieve a balanced global economy without also reconsidering the global reserve system in the longer term.

15. Moving towards a multilateral framework to ensure balanced and sustainable growth — an approach long advocated by his Department — would require accelerated progress on global economic governance reform. Developing countries must have more commensurate voice and participation in the multilateral financial institutions to ensure the latter's legitimacy and effectiveness. The serious lack of coherence between the international trading system and the international monetary and financial system must also be addressed.

16. Protectionism would only impede global recovery, as trade remained a critical source of finance for developing countries. All parties must be serious about concluding the Doha Development Round in 2010 and about giving it a development perspective. The hurdles to climate change-related technology transfer posed by intellectual property rights must also be overcome.

17. It was important to ensure that the poorest countries not only benefited from but also contributed to global recovery, by providing them with adequate development finance. He urged donor countries and international organizations to step up debt relief, maintain official development assistance (ODA) and ensure timely, stable and effective resource flows. In the current time of crisis, it was also important to develop innovative sources of financing, given the potential for large-scale funding.

18. Employment and social protection were essential not only to contain the negative impacts of the crisis, but also to reduce poverty. Indeed, creating employment and decent work for all — a theme of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty — was essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as was protecting and expanding the gains made in advancing gender equality and empowering women, who played a critical role in development. The ongoing response to the financial crisis must include gender-sensitive investments in physical and social infrastructure and employment and should take into account paid and unpaid work.

19. United Nations system entities were working together to address the current multiple challenges through nine new joint initiatives, which served as a strategic framework for the system's response to the global financial and economic crisis. The United Nations was already responding to the challenge of deeper reform of the global economic and financial system. Both the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha in November/December 2008, and the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York in June 2009, underscored the importance of inclusive global governance. He trusted the Committee would help build on that momentum. The urgency of implementing those outcomes could not be overemphasized.

20. The Committee would also have the opportunity, at the current session, to carry forward the General Assembly's work in promoting greater system-wide coherence within the United Nations. His Department would work with other United Nations system entities to develop further proposals aimed at improving the governance of operational activities, as requested by the Assembly. The need to increase national ownership and to maximize the impact of operational activities was more urgent than ever, as the economic crisis fuelled new needs in developing countries and eroded the financial base of the United Nations.

21. The Organization must stay fully engaged nationally, regionally and internationally if it was to stem the reversal of developmental gains and to seize the opportunity to build a more balanced, stable, prosperous and sustainable future for the world. In doing so, it must ensure the coordinated combined effort of all stakeholders: developing and developed countries, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. He and his team would make every effort to facilitate the important work of the Committee, which they stood ready to serve.

General debate

22. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to begin its general debate.

23. **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the effects of the global financial and economic crisis continued to unfold in developing countries, revealing serious multidimensional challenges, adversely affecting their economies and people, eroding hard won gains and sending millions of people into poverty. Global unemployment was expected to remain above 6 per cent in 2009 and 2010. In the worst case scenario, another 6 million people would become unemployed. Furthermore, it was estimated that, in 2009, 53 million people would fall below the poverty line and the number of hungry would increase by over 105 million. Consequently, more attention must be paid in all areas of development cooperation to the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, African countries, middle-income countries, low-income countries and countries emerging from conflict.

24. Developing countries bore the brunt of the effects of the crisis, despite not being responsible for it. While the recent United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development had been an important step, more needed to be done. Substantial new and additional financial resources must be made available, as a matter of priority, to developing countries. In addition, developed countries should make every effort to fulfil their commitments in such areas as debt relief, ODA, capacity-building and technology transfer, to help developing countries address the effects of the crisis and ensure sustained long-term growth and development. The Committee must ensure vigorous follow-up to the Outcome of the Conference both at the United Nations and in the relevant international financial institutions. The Group looked forward to beginning the substantive work of the ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly established to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome.

25. The current crisis had highlighted the urgent need for substantive and comprehensive reform of the international economic and financial system and architecture, including the mandates, scope and governance of the international financial institutions, which must have a clear development orientation. The Group would continue to call for an open, inclusive and transparent reform process.

26. Food security remained a critical global challenge. To be successful, strategies to defeat hunger should promote stronger and more accountable institutions, stable global markets, enhanced market access for agricultural products from developing countries, elimination of subsidies by developed countries, sustainable investment in agricultural production and research, and targeted support for the advancement of the agricultural sector in developing countries. Commodity markets should be stabilized and should not be subject to speculation and volatility.

27. The Group welcomed the addition of an agenda item on agriculture development and food security and the decision to convene the World Summit on Food Security in Rome in November 2009; supported Brazil's offer to host a summit on sustainable development in 2012; and looked forward to a successful outcome of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi in December 2009.

28. Developed countries must demonstrate the political will and flexibility needed to break the current impasse in international trade negotiations with a view to concluding the Doha Round by 2010 and achieving an early, successful and development-oriented outcome focused on the needs of developing countries. Developed countries must also fulfil the commitments they had made in the context of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

29. He called on developed countries to undertake ambitious commitments under the Kyoto Protocol for subsequent commitment periods beyond 2012 and urged the international community to assist developing countries in addressing the consequences of climate change and in meeting their adaptation needs. Solving the climate crisis was an integral part of meeting overall sustainable development objectives. The Group was committed to working closely with all delegations to devise action-oriented resolutions and decisions that addressed challenges with the urgency, certainty and resources required.

30. **Mr. Örnéus** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the current global economic and financial crisis had been aggravated by the adverse effects of climate change. The prospects of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, were in jeopardy. The signs of recovery were tentative and did not apply to all countries. The Committee must, therefore, focus on responding to the crisis and its impact on development. The Committee's deliberations offered an opportunity to discuss policy options aimed at supporting the most vulnerable and preventing a repetition of the crisis and opportunities for new approaches, such as green recovery and new technologies for low-carbon growth. The Committee could build on the discussions and outcomes of a number of recent United Nations events. Its deliberations should also benefit from the outcomes of other relevant forums.

31. The European Union was committed to supporting recovery and long-term development in developing countries. It stood by its ODA commitments and reaffirmed that the principle of aid

effectiveness should guide all development actors. It remained committed to Africa and would continue to build on the positive changes there in the last decade.

32. The European Union had taken a firm stance against protectionism and continued to press for progress in trade liberalization and further integration of developing countries in the multilateral trading system. Others should follow its example and provide duty- and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries. Aid for trade was essential in helping the poorest developing countries overcome the constraints affecting their own trading potential. Overall public sector stimulus support to the European Union economy in 2009 and 2010, projected at around 5 per cent of its combined GDP, would help spur developing country exports.

33. For recovery to be sustainable and lead to decent work for all, attention should be paid to creating more inclusive labour markets, active labour market policies, and quality education and training programmes in all countries. As growth returned, individual countries must ensure that employment recovered quickly. In that connection, the European Union welcomed the Global Jobs Pact recently adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

34. An important part of achieving sustainable growth and a stable financial system was the ongoing reform of the international financial institutions' governance systems. The European Union recognized the need to increase the voice, quota and representation of countries currently underrepresented in the Bretton Woods institutions and supported the reform process under way there.

35. The natural resource base for life and development was increasingly imperilled. Despite the target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss significantly by 2010, substantial and largely irreversible biodiversity loss persisted. Societies must change the way they produced and consumed if sustainable development was to be achieved. Following the agreements reached at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in May 2009, the European Union looked forward to the next implementation cycle. The European Union welcomed the proposal to hold a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012 and was prepared to engage actively in discussions about it. For such an event to be meaningful, there must be broad agreement in the General Assembly.

36. The world was on the threshold of a major transition to a global low-carbon economy. Policies aimed at addressing climate change, poverty eradication and economic competitiveness must be identified and implemented. Renewable energies and energy efficiency were key to supplying sustainable energy and combating climate change. It was time for the international community to make the commitments needed to limit global warming to under 2°C. At the same time, there was a need to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and to offer swift and adequate support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

37. The European Union welcomed the determination shown by world leaders at the recent Summit on Climate Change urgently to address climate change, as well as their support for increased action and financing. The pace of negotiations must be accelerated so that an ambitious, global and comprehensive agreement could be reached at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. The European Union was ready to engage positively in discussions on the related resolution and make a constructive contribution to the Conference.

38. Support for the least developed countries remained a priority for the European Union. The new Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) would boost collective efforts to monitor the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable. Food security was a fundamental requirement for the well-being and economic and social development of any society, and hunger and malnourishment seriously affected future generations. It was important to focus on long-term and sustained efforts to ensure food security for all people. The European Union was ready to intervene quickly in the event of humanitarian emergencies. It welcomed the food security initiative endorsed at the Group of Eight (G-8) Summit held in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009 and the commitments made to mobilize $20 billion over three years. The upcoming World Summit on Food Security, to which the European Union attached great importance, should have one clear high-level political objective: to launch a new system of governance for global food security. Reducing disaster risk and accelerating the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action was also critical to social and economic development.

39. Many children had difficulties accessing proper health care and education owing to a lack of documentary proof of their existence, while many working poor were at risk of exploitation owing to their dependence on the informal sector. The legal empowerment of the poor was not only necessary; it was also an effective way of strengthening the capability of individuals and groups seeking a way out of poverty. The European Union supported the addition of an agenda item on that issue.

40. The ratification by 137 countries of the United Nations Convention against Corruption illustrated the international community's determination to combat corruption. The European Union attached great importance to the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, to be held in Doha in November 2009, and called on all States Parties to adopt an effective, transparent and inclusive review mechanism.

41. The European Union welcomed the General Assembly's strong and unanimous support for the establishment of a new gender entity within the United Nations system and was ready to work with other Member States to finalize the remaining details. It looked forward to the upcoming commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development and to the Economic and Social Council's 2010 Annual Ministerial Review, which would focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

42. The high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010 would provide an opportunity to mobilize momentum for the final stretch towards 2015, the target year for attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Progress had been made in that respect, but it was uneven and had been jeopardized by the multiple global crises. A strong, global commitment to combating poverty was needed. Many of the issues to be discussed by the Committee directly affected countries' ability to achieve the Goals.

43. The United Nations must strengthen its operational activities so as to deliver more effectively and efficiently in support of developing countries' national priorities. The Committee could build on the triennial comprehensive policy review and on previous discussions and resolutions relating to system-wide coherence. The European Union looked forward to continuing that work.

44. Lastly, the European Union supported the Chairperson's intention to improve further the Committee's working methods. The rationalization of the Committee's programme of work should continue, as should the rational division of work between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Special events played an important role in improving the Committee's deliberations, but the Committee's already heavy programme should not be overburdened by too many of them. The European Union supported the timetable established. The Committee should conclude its work in time for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, both in December 2009.

45. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the impact of the economic crisis on his region had been severe. There had been sharp declines in tourism revenue, remittances and commodity prices and demand. Unemployment had spiked. While in the developed world there were signs of recovery, the crisis had only just begun in the Caribbean, and the worst might be yet to come.

46. The G-20 had failed to recognize the needs of small, highly indebted economies which were classified as middle-income countries. It was wrongly assumed that such countries did not require international assistance. Per capita GDP was an insufficient indicator for determining access to concessionary financing. Broader criteria should be used. CARICOM therefore welcomed the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which had provided a forum for small, vulnerable countries to contribute to global discussion of issues of concern. Expeditious follow-up was expected on such matters as the provision of new resources to assist developing countries and evaluation of the criteria to measure the economic sustainability of middle-income countries.

47. At the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, CARICOM would not be party to an agreement which lacked concrete commitments on adaptation and mitigation, capacity-building, technology transfer and the provision of financial resources to assist developing countries in addressing climate change. The viability of small island developing States must be preserved.

48. CARICOM was heartened by the inclusion of the agenda item on agriculture and food security for consideration by the Committee.

49. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the least developed countries, said that the Millennium Development Goals should not be compromised because of the financial crisis, and that the review of their implementation in 2010 should give special attention to the plight of the least developed countries. The national and G-20 economic packages were too weak to cover the special needs of the least developed countries. Distortionary and protectionist measures in those packages which affected the least developed countries should be discouraged.

50. The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 should be seriously implemented in the time remaining, as should the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the Barbados Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

51. A climate change agreement must be reached in Copenhagen, with special consideration given to the small island nations and those in the ice-melting zones of the Himalayas. A concerted preparatory process should be launched leading up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries scheduled for 2011.

52. The global food crisis ought to be addressed through increased food supply and sustainable agricultural development. The right to food must become a reality. The stalled Doha Round of the World Trade Organization negotiations should be relaunched and completed, and duty-free and quota-free access to the products of the least developed countries in the markets of the developed countries should be implemented.

53. **Mr. Natalegawa** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the work in the Committee must take into account the fact that the poor had been hardest hit by the economic crisis. The call by the G-20 to shift IMF quota shares from overrepresented to underrepresented countries by January 2011 was a critical step. The Second Committee should contribute to efforts to establish an early warning system to avoid another global financial crisis.

54. Regional financial sector cooperation was an important complement to global cooperation for sustainable growth and to promote a resilient financial system. More coordinated action by developed and developing countries was a vital step to restore financial stability. There should be a mechanism for soliciting the views of non-members of the G-20, as post-crisis reforms would affect most economies in the global financial system.

55. Second Committee deliberations on the agenda item on agriculture development and food security should address reform of the global food and agriculture economy and take into account the impact of climate change, especially on small farmers and fishermen. ASEAN had committed to food security as a matter of permanent and priority policy and was strengthening regional food security through the establishment of a rice reserve as a permanent mechanism in the region.

56. The adverse effects of climate change should be addressed on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances. The transition to low-emission growth required cooperation between developed and developing countries. The issues of forests and oceans should be mainstreamed into climate change discussions.

57. ASEAN had made progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in primary education, gender equality and combating some infectious diseases. However, there was concern that the current crises would set back progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Attainment of the Goals should be actively monitored.

58. **Mr. Bhaila** (Sri Lanka) said that, as a result of the economic crisis, up to 99 million more people would be living in extreme poverty than had been previously anticipated. A slight drop in food prices from the previous year had done little to alleviate hunger. The move to generate biofuels had reduced the amount of arable land available for food production.

59. Leaders in the South Asian region had decided to establish a regional emergency food reserve. However, such efforts must be complemented by improved seeds, irrigation, timely fertilizer supplies, post-harvest crop preservation methods and more investments in agricultural research and technology. In Sri Lanka, there was a nationwide initiative to cultivate all arable land and provide the necessary infrastructure and other support to stimulate farming in rural areas.

60. Developed countries must accept their historic responsibility for the problem of global warming. There was a need to develop an independent mechanism to respond to the carbon debt of the historical mass polluters, which continued to occupy the carbon space of developing countries. Developing countries should receive adequate support through financial and technical mechanisms to enhance adaptation and mitigation.

61. Since the tsunami in 2004, Sri Lanka had made progress in disaster management, passing a disaster management law, adopting a disaster reduction road map with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and putting in place a disaster warning network.

62. The reduction of 15 per cent in foreign direct investment in 2008 due to the financial crisis was cause for concern and must be reversed in order to rectify the effects of the economic crisis on developing economies. Developing countries must be better represented in the international financial institutions. Those institutions' capacity for surveillance of irresponsible financial behaviours was crucial to the prevention of future crises.

63. Remittances from migrant workers were a key source of revenue for developing countries. International migration was integral to development. Increased commitment to and compliance with international regimes to protect and promote the welfare of migrants were called for. Migrant remittances were private and could not be a substitute for ODA.

64. Sri Lanka was on track to fulfil several Millennium Development Goals. The country had 95 per cent primary school enrolment and a 95 per cent literacy rate among youth. Life expectancy was up and child mortality was down.

65. **Mr. Sumi** (Japan) said that, while the worst of the crisis seemed to be over, it was still difficult to predict the future prospects of the global economy. The vulnerable had been hard hit and unemployment continued to rise in many countries. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development had been timely and useful.

66. A priority of the new Japanese Government was to promote a solid recovery and sustainable growth by enhancing domestic consumption. In the second quarter of 2009, Japan's GDP had grown for the first time in over a year, by 2.3 per cent.

67. With the largest potential for growth in the world, Asia could contribute much to reviving the global economy. Japan supported the recovery and growth of Asian economies through a wide range of tools. The international financial institutions also had a pivotal role to play in overcoming the current crisis and preventing another one. His Government welcomed the swift response of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and the reform they were undergoing. The East Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s had shown that, in times of sudden economic downturn, the vulnerable and voiceless suffered the most. In recognition of that fact, Japan was working to enhance human security and encouraged every country to adopt people-centred measures.

68. Despite the current crisis, donor countries should fulfil their development commitments so that the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals was not reversed. For its part, Japan intended to continue and strengthen the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process and to redouble its efforts to achieve those Goals. At the same time, every country should assume primary responsibility for its own development. Japan had pioneered triangular cooperation and advocated enhancing the effectiveness of South-South cooperation, which it had supported bilaterally and multilaterally. The current session must pave the way for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in September 2010 to review the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the scope, modalities, format and organization of that meeting (A/64/263), in particular the suggestion that the Assembly might wish to ensure that the scope of the proposed meeting was consistent

with the Millennium Declaration and had the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals at its core, and looked forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on progress achieved towards implementing the Millennium Declaration.

69. According to the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, the encouraging trend in the eradication of hunger since the early 1990s had been reversed in 2008, owing largely to higher food prices, and a decrease in international food prices in the second half of 2008 had failed to translate into more affordable food for most people. As the largest net importer of food, Japan was very interested in the issue of food security. Participants in a side event organized by Japan and others during the plenary general debate had expressed the view that responsible investment in agriculture would harmonize and maximize the interests of receiving countries, local communities and investors. The event had been the first step in developing a set of principles and an international framework to promote such investment.

70. The fight against disease and the promotion of maternal, neonatal and child health were important components of the Millennium Development Goals. At the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, Japan had made a national voluntary presentation on global health in which it had advocated a comprehensive approach and involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. As a founder of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Japan continued to participate in the struggle against infectious diseases. Just the previous month, it had decided to provide about 1.1 billion yen in emergency grant aid through the World Health Organization (WHO) to help extend vaccination against the influenza A (H1N1) virus in developing countries.

71. The United Nations system could not afford to remain fragmented, uncoordinated and weakened by inefficiency and duplication. System-wide coherence was essential. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the General Assembly resolution supporting the establishment of a new gender entity. Gender mainstreaming must be promoted in all phases of the Organization's development and humanitarian assistance activities. Simply creating a new gender entity was not, however, sufficient to ensure the coherence of the entire United Nations system. When establishing the new gender architecture, the allocation of existing resources should be rationalized and new duplication and fragmentation of the gender-related activities of different United Nations entities prevented. His delegation would continue to engage actively in discussions on the issue.

72. Protecting the planet for future generations was one of the major challenges facing the world. Japan aimed to reduce its emissions by 25 per cent by 2020, compared to the 1990 level. Japan's efforts alone could not, however, halt climate change. A fair and effective international framework involving all major economies must be established.

73. Japan was also prepared to provide more financial and technical assistance, in particular in support of adaptation efforts by vulnerable developing countries and small island developing States. Public financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries alone would not, however, meet developing countries' needs. A mechanism was needed that both ensured the effective use of public funds and facilitated the flow of private investments.

74. In 2010, Japan would host the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Japan would continue its preparations in close cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders and was committed to ensuring that ambitious, realistic and action-oriented post-2010 biodiversity targets were established.

75. As for the proposal to hold a high-level event on sustainable development in 2012, thorough consideration should first be given to possible themes, timing and preparatory processes and to its relationship with the ongoing workplan of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His delegation would engage actively in discussions on the issue.

76. Lastly, Japan intended to redouble its efforts to promote human security. The human security-based approach aimed to protect and empower individuals so that they could fully realize their potential and live in dignity. The Committee might find it useful to adopt such an approach when it began addressing the issues before it.

77. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (China) said that the international community must respond to the current global crisis by attaching greater importance to development, which it must continue to promote through cooperation. Governments should build on

political consensus, strengthen the global development partnership and turn commitments into action. Developed countries should increase development assistance, lower artificial barriers to technology transfer and help developing countries enhance their capacity for sustainable development. The United Nations should increase its contribution to development and create an international environment conducive to economic development. Developing countries should enhance their capacity for independent development and explore growth modes commensurate with national conditions.

78. Addressing the global financial crisis and pushing for a robust recovery was the main task facing the international community. The parties concerned must ensure the recovery of their own economies, promote reform of the international financial architecture and emphasize the importance of increasing developing country representation and voice in international financial institutions. The international community should improve the international mechanism for promoting balanced development, help the World Bank increase development resources and strengthen its capacity for poverty reduction and development, urge IMF to establish an efficient and effective financial relief mechanism, and give priority to the least developed countries when providing financial support. The capital raised at the recent G-20 Summit should be used first and foremost to resolve development imbalances and to scale up assistance to developing countries.

79. In tackling the financial crisis, the international community should oppose trade protectionism, safeguard an equitable, free and open global trade and investment system, and undertake not to impose new restrictions on commodities, investment and services. A failed Doha Round was not conducive to the orderly operation of international trade or to the steady development of the world economy. Countries should build on the existing mandates and accomplishments of the Doha Round and ensure that it achieved its goal at an early date.

80. With regard to climate change, the international community should build on the political consensus achieved at the recent Summit on Climate Change, adopt a responsible approach to individual countries and to humanity as a whole, and endeavour to make the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference a success. In the run-up to that Conference, the international community should act in keeping with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto and adhere to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It should also adhere to the mandate contained in the outcome of the Bali Climate Change Conference, held in 2007, strive for mutually beneficial solutions, and work to create a better world for future generations.

81. The global food crisis deserved the international community's full attention. The parties concerned should take seriously the issues of agriculture and food, strengthen cooperation and adopt an integrated approach. The international community should increase its contribution to agriculture, develop advanced technologies, resist market speculation, strengthen agricultural cooperation and improve global food output. Developed countries and international organizations should provide more agricultural assistance to developing countries, while respecting their decision-making power.

82. The Chinese people had recently celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over six decades, China had formulated and implemented a development strategy based on Chinese characteristics. While it had achieved some success in that regard, it was acutely aware that, as a developing country with a large population, it must speed up its development. China had a long way to go before it would be able to ensure prosperity for the whole population.

83. His Government attached great importance to China's economic and social development and was pushing for people-oriented, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable scientific development. China adhered to the basic State policy of conserving resources, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development. In response to the global financial crisis, his Government had unveiled a series of policy measures aimed at expanding domestic demand, adjusting the economic structure, promoting growth and improving livelihoods. In the first half of 2009, China's GDP had increased by 7.1 per cent compared to the previous year.

84. The promotion of common development had always been a key component of China's foreign policy, as had the consolidation of solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries. Though still suffering from the global financial crisis, China

was committed to implementing the measures to assist Africa announced at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in November 2006. China would continue to provide assistance to other developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation, to address the current crisis and to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

85. **Mr. Haroon** (Pakistan) said that it was regrettable that the breakdown in the Doha Round meant that trade could not be used to stimulate consumption, production and employment promotion, all of which were necessary to end the recession. In addition, there were growing signs of protectionism either due to the economic turmoil or under the guise of addressing climate change. Therefore, an effort involving all stakeholders was necessary to break the deadlock in those negotiations and bring the current round to a successful conclusion.

86. Climate change was a daunting issue, as it intersected with development. It would pose additional challenges in tackling poverty, improving health care, increasing food security and improving access to energy sources. Developing countries must contribute to the response to climate change by introducing low-carbon strategies into their socio-economic growth plans and undertaking voluntary mitigation and adaptation measures, subject to the availability of finance and technology transfer. Developed countries must commit to emission reductions and technology transfer.

87. His country supported new, systematic approaches to assess country vulnerability and the actions taken by relevant actors to realize the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals, as well as to monitor financial commitments made by donors.

88. Agriculture held the key to poverty reduction. There was a need to address agriculture development and food security in the context of development policy. Therefore, Pakistan had co-sponsored the resolution placing that new item on the agenda. Health issues should receive similar attention in the Committee.

89. Finally, while efficiency and effectiveness were important, they must not come at the expense of legitimacy, inclusiveness, transparency and equity, which only the United Nations could bring to the table.

90. **Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) said that the G-20 had proven to be the central forum for discussion of current economic problems and an effective lever for advancing the global development agenda. At the same time, a way must be found for the G-20 to interact with other States. Interests could be best coordinated using the potential of the United Nations.

91. The main task of the Second Committee during the current session was to lay the foundation for groundbreaking decisions at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly with the participation of heads of State and Government to be held in September 2010. Committee decisions on macroeconomic matters should be aimed at mobilizing the resources necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

92. Because development and combating climate change were closely linked, solutions to climate challenges must be sought which would not undermine economic growth, particularly in the case of developing countries. The achievement of a consensus on climate change at the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen was crucial, and it was the role of the Second Committee to support efforts to reach that consensus. The Russian Federation intended by 2020 to reduce emissions by 10 to 15 per cent compared to 1990, reducing its total emissions by 30 billion tons over the course of 30 years. Others should take similar steps.

93. Climate change should be dealt with in the context of energy security. The Group of Eight had agreed on new legal principles for collaboration in that area in order to align the interests of energy suppliers, consumers and transit countries.

94. The Comprehensive Framework for Action prepared by the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis would serve as a good basis for initiatives to resolve the crisis. The Framework should first be implemented at the country level. Implementation could involve the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. The United Nations specialized agencies in Rome could also be involved.

95. Industrial output and GDP were now rising in the Russian Federation, following eight months of recession, and the national economy was growing. Despite cuts to the 2009 budget, the Government had continued to fund transportation infrastructure and provide stimuli for the construction industry. At the

same time, many barriers to private enterprise had been removed in recent months, including the strengthening of anti-monopoly regulations. Improvements had been made to the banking sector. There were plans to reduce State interference in the economy and use traditional market tools, such as privatization.

96. A so-called "exit strategy" was being developed for implementation in 2010, involving improvements to legislation and corporate governance in order to boost the economy. Despite the economic difficulties, the influx of foreign direct investment during the first half of the year had been recorded at $17 billion.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/64/SR.3

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, which supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that States needed to work jointly to tackle the adverse effects of the global financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and climate change, which threatened the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Arab Group had taken numerous actions in response to those crises, including through resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait in January 2009. It looked forward to effective participation in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which should reaffirm the international community's commitment to those Goals and particularly Goal 8 on an international partnership for development.

2. The developing and least developed countries had limited resources and capacity to deal with the economic and social problems exacerbated by the global financial crisis, for which they had not been responsible. That crisis had been the result of an outdated international financial system governed by unjust rules and regulations which did not take into account the interests of all concerned. The Group of Twenty (G-20) had recently adopted recommendations without input from developing countries, whose views would have been useful. The Arab Group stressed the importance of improving the international financial system, multilateral oversight, IMF lending methods, the international system for payments and reserves, and reform of the Bretton Woods institutions to foster developing countries' participation in decision-making. Reform of the quota and voting systems was also needed. The United Nations must ensure follow-up on the implementation of the final outcome document of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development within the framework of the Organization and of other relevant international financial institutions.

3. In light of the continuing decline in official development assistance (ODA), States needed to adhere to the Monterrey Consensus, and not count debt relief and humanitarian aid as part of ODA. Developed nations must fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP to the least developed countries by 2010. It was also crucial to implement the commitments in the final document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The international community should give particular attention to least developed Arab States with high poverty levels, and fulfil its commitment to help African countries integrate into the world economy, focusing on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It should also take into account the needs of middle-income developing countries and cancel, reduce or restructure the debt of heavily indebted poor countries.

4. Climate change must be addressed within the context of sustainable development in a balanced way, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol were the most important international instruments in that context.

5. The Group hoped that the political momentum generated during the recent United Nations Summit on Climate Change would lead to positive results during the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. Joint efforts were needed to address desertification and drought, which affected most Arab countries, and to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The final outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference must help assess developed countries' fulfilment of their commitments, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

6. There was a need to address the economic, social and humanitarian plight of Palestinians and Syrians living under Israeli occupation. States must not allow Israel to continue its destructive policies, which undermined Palestinian development, and must take adequate steps, including through withdrawal of economic support, to force Israel to respect its obligations under international law.

7. Multilateral trade negotiations should continue, and membership of developing countries in the World Trade Organization (WTO) should be facilitated, without politicization. The food crisis was a matter of grave concern and required a range of measures, including immediate support to the affected countries,

and dialogue between the energy and food exporters and importers of developed and developing countries.

8. South-South cooperation should be consolidated as complementary to North-South cooperation, and financial assistance provided in that regard should not be considered as ODA, but as an aspect of partnership and cooperation among the countries of the South.

9. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that faster progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals remained vital, and reaffirmed his Government's commitment in that regard, including through enshrining in law the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Providing more money was only part of the solution, however. Donors still needed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance provided. His delegation therefore attached importance to General Assembly resolution 62/277 on system-wide coherence, hoped for swift progress on the establishment of a consolidated gender entity in particular, and looked forward to working with other Member States on funding and governance reforms.

10. On the subject of climate change, the Committee must capitalize on the political will and vision evidenced at the recent Summit on Climate Change and ensure that the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference would provide security for all, especially the poorest countries.

11. Lastly, as the poorest were the most vulnerable to global economic and financial shocks, he strongly supported the establishment of the United Nations Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System to help produce high-quality analysis and thus ensure that aid was delivered more swiftly and effectively.

12. **Mr. Benítez Versón** (Cuba) said that, one year after the global economic and financial crisis had erupted, the global outlook continued to be discouraging, particularly for developing countries. Though some were already speaking about recovery, the crisis had in fact spread, with devastating consequences in the developing world in particular, where unemployment was rising, poverty was growing, more people were going hungry, and many children would die as a result of extreme poverty and indigence. Nations in the South had been seriously affected by a sharp drop in exports, capital flight and loss of income from services, and forced to divert a considerable share of the resources intended for their own development to address the disastrous effects of a crisis for which they were not responsible, and which had been the result of the capitalist system.

13. In response to the call for a new international economic order and for reform of the international financial institutions, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, the Committee must adopt resolutions proposing urgent and effective solutions to those problems. Developed countries needed to engage in frank dialogue, without imposing conditions or systems and models that were ill adapted to the legitimate aspirations of the developing world.

14. While the issues of agriculture and food security were important, the Committee's discussions should not prejudge the negotiations that would take place in Rome in the context of the World Summit on Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

15. Cuba had continued to make economic and social progress in spite of the obstacles associated with the financial and economic crisis, the natural disasters that had struck, and the unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade which the Government of the United States had been imposing on the country for more than 50 years. Cuba would continue to contribute to the development of other third world countries in the context of South-South cooperation.

16. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that, as the global economic crisis had confirmed the interdependence of countries, developing countries' participation in decision-making must be enhanced. The various international bodies with mandates to address the international financial architecture must adopt a holistic approach in dealing with development challenges, extending beyond banking and financial regulation to impart new impetus and scope to multilateralism. The United Nations must play a crucial role in that context. Financial flows must be more strictly regulated, and financial instruments should be simplified, harmonized and transparent. In addition to existing commitments made by developed countries, new financial resources were needed to help all countries to face the crisis, particularly developing countries, including middle-income ones. A mechanism should be established to ensure that the positions and agreements reached in the context of the United Nations were incorporated by the Group of 20 (G-20),

and other meetings of major economies. Continued trade flows, opening of markets, elimination of protectionism, strengthening of the multilateral trade system and successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round were needed to promote international trade and investment, global production and economic growth.

17. His delegation expressed concern about the increase in military spending, which directly affected countries' capacity to fight poverty and hunger and to attain the Millennium Development Goals. It was thus crucial to strengthen the direct link between disarmament and development.

18. Peru was suffering dramatically from the effects of global warming and advocated binding commitments for cooperation and technology transfer and creation of funds to develop projects specifically addressing the effects of climate change in the countries most affected. At the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, binding international commitments should be established for countries responsible for the climate change problem. Peru had adopted a number of mitigation measures, including through education and voluntary national targets, and an ambitious forest conservation programme to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. His delegation advocated ambitious global mitigation action to prevent an excessive rise in temperature, and establishment of a financial mechanism for setting up a global mitigation fund to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. That mechanism would involve a tax on oil production, distribution and sales. Peru also proposed the creation of integrated adaptation programmes and was actively promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

19. Drug trafficking did not receive due attention in discussions on global warming. Coca production caused significant deforestation and soil erosion, resulting in irreparable damage to the Amazon rainforest and thus contributing to global warming. Joint efforts must thus be made to stop drug trafficking and related criminal activities, not only through legislation but also through programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and alternative and sustainable development.

20. **Mr. Shin Boonam** (Republic of Korea) said that, although his country was not an Annex I party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it was committed to tackling the issue of climate change, for example by setting an emission reduction target for 2020 and adopting and investing in a national strategy to reduce carbon and stimulate green growth. His delegation proposed the establishment of a voluntary registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries.

21. His Government was committed to tripling its ODA by 2015, and had provided financial support and know-how through the Millennium Villages project. With regard to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, the Republic of Korea supported the establishment of an open-ended working group. His country would be hosting the G-20 Summit in 2010 and hoped to contribute to enhanced cooperation and dialogue among all Member States in discussing responses to the crisis and the revitalization of the international financial and economic architecture. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) and the International Labour Organization's "Global Jobs Pact", which would strengthen the global partnership needed to respond to the economic crisis. His delegation supported the multilateral trade system and trade liberalization, and hoped for conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010.

22. Water also remained a pivotal issue. His country had allocated about one fifth of its budget for green growth to improve domestic water management. Countries needed to work together to resolve water-related issues and the international community should promote more effective governance in that regard. His delegation supported the exploration of options for a specialized and unified water management cooperation initiative.

23. **Mr. Meñez** (Philippines) said that, in the light of the extreme weather events and natural disasters which had recently struck his country and the Asia-Pacific region in general, the Philippines particularly appreciated the mechanisms set up under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for delivering assistance to those in need. The policy decisions arising from the Committee's discussions on sustainable development and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction could help prevent and alleviate the suffering of many people worldwide.

24. The consequences of the global financial and economic crisis remained of major concern and the Committee had much work to do on the subject of reform of the international financial system. Although some efforts had been made to broaden understanding of the actions taken by the G-20, many delegations felt that consultations should be held before any final policy decisions with effects extending far beyond the borders of the G-20 were taken. He reiterated his delegation's call for innovative debt sustainability initiatives to help address the debt burden affecting middle-income countries in the context of the global crisis. He drew attention to the global downturn's impact on migration and the various platforms for addressing that matter, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The 2009 Human Development Report was another valuable tool for discussing human mobility and development in the context of the United Nations.

25. As for climate change, he drew the Committee's attention to the main objectives set out in the Manila Declaration on Green Industry in Asia: for Governments to establish policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks conducive to shifting to resource-efficient and low-carbon industries, consistent with the sustainability business principle. Climate change discussions, in which his delegation participated actively, must look beyond parochial interests and find a common and sustainable development path reversing the calamitous effects of human activity on the planet.

26. **Mr. Apakan** (Turkey) said that recent deepening financial and economic crises, combined with volatile fuel prices, food insecurity, the influenza pandemic and climate change, had demonstrated once again the need for collective efforts to bring about global solutions. The Committee must make every effort to address all aspects of the development agenda, in terms both of policy options and implementation, while focusing on the elimination of existing economic, social and environmental barriers to sustainable development. In that context, Turkey fully supported the convening of a formal summit by the Secretary-General in 2010 to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and to define the required efforts and actions for the final five years before 2015.

27. The burden of global challenges was felt most by the developing countries, which had benefited least from globalization but were suffering the most from its adverse effects on growth, employment and social welfare. It was estimated that between 73 and 103 million people would remain poor or fall into poverty as a result of the global crisis; thus, even as economies shrank, eradicating poverty was the major challenge for the international community.

28. The international community would have to continue its efforts to support the developing world on its path to sustainable development, within the framework of a renewed global development agenda and through increased foreign investments and enhanced trade facilities. If the Doha Development Round negotiations could be completed successfully, that would promote the integration of the least developed countries into the world economy.

29. Making good on commitments was of vital importance in the quest for universal sustainable growth and development. As an emerging donor and G-20 member, Turkey considered ODA to be one of the main tools for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and was committed to enriching and deepening its development agenda for the benefit of all, in particular the least developed countries.

30. The operational activities of the United Nations could be further strengthened to increase their effectiveness and efficiency, ensuring that development assistance delivered results and accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Organization could play a crucial role in fostering solidarity, coordination and partnership between donors and the developing world, and implementation of the "One UN" approach was certainly a step in the right direction. It was also crucial that development cooperation be demand-driven and based on developing countries' own strategies and plans.

31. Climate change was one of the most important challenges facing the world and its negative effects had begun to be felt everywhere. A credible response to climate change should come from both the developed and developing countries, with international efforts geared to combating global emissions on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, without jeopardizing sustainable development initiatives and with due regard for developing countries' needs for technology transfer and financing. The Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General on 22 September had been

very timely, sending a strong message to the negotiators that agreement must be reached in Copenhagen.

32. Turkey welcomed the efforts to further streamline the Committee's agenda but, given the wide-ranging and substantive issues before the Committee, additional efforts were still needed to focus the discussions on result-oriented policy options. It was also essential that the work in the Committee be coordinated with that of the Economic and Social Council. Turkey also saw room for improvement in the preparation of reports, with enrichment of their content and avoidance of duplication.

33. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) observed that the overall situation of the global economy had further deteriorated and the burden on developing countries had increased. The multiple and interrelated crises and challenges in the areas of energy, food and climate change had been further exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis which had resulted in a global economic recession. The Second Committee had to address all those issues in a manner commensurate with their gravity. Innovative and action-oriented approaches were needed, plus the political will to implement them.

34. The majority of developing countries had not been on schedule for achieving the Millennium Development Goals even before the outbreak of the various crises, and their efforts had since been further undermined. The current session must provide much-needed political impetus and guidance in preparation for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which would review progress made and chart the way forward.

35. The world financial and economic crisis had imposed many additional difficulties on the developing countries. The Committee's deliberations and the resolutions adopted should reflect that reality. There was a need for a comprehensive approach to the crisis, with urgent implementation of existing development commitments and undertaking of new and additional ones, with the overall aim of achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. While developing countries were the most adversely affected by it, the global financial and economic crisis had arisen from the structural imbalances and deficiencies of the prevailing system. Accordingly, the discussions and resolutions must be based on the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, with a view to a comprehensive and fundamental reform of the international economic and financial system. There was a need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international decision-making and norm-setting, including in the international financial institutions.

36. The world financial and economic crisis had placed many additional constraints on financing for development since the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of December 2008. The strain in the financial sector had resulted in severe constraints on funding accessible to developing countries in the form of investment flows, trade, ODA and credit, compounded by shrinking inflows from tourism and reduced migrants' remittances. Egypt looked forward to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held on 23 and 24 November as an opportunity to address many of the challenges that had emerged over the past year. It intended to work constructively with its partners in order to identify concerns and to agree on ways to address them through the relevant resolutions.

37. Climate change was an issue of great concern to all countries, but to the developing ones in particular. The strong political message that had been sent by the Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General at the beginning of the session should strengthen the momentum needed in preparation for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. It was vital for the Second Committee to send the message that the Conference must reach a landmark agreement, one that was based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and that duly reflected countries' views and aspirations with regard to mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

38. The ongoing food crisis represented a challenge to the global fight against hunger, as well as to the efforts of developing countries to achieve food security. In that regard, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 63/235 by which an item entitled "Agriculture development and food security" had been placed on the agenda of the current session of the Assembly, pursuant to an initiative taken by Egypt, Chile and Indonesia, to raise the level of political

attention accorded in the United Nations to development of agriculture and food security. Egypt also looked forward to the World Summit on Food Security convened by FAO for 16 and 17 November 2009, as a forum to continue addressing those important issues.

39. The Committee needed to move forward at the current session towards shaping a comprehensive United Nations energy agenda, including the creation of an effective mechanism to transfer advanced energy technologies to developing countries, with particular emphasis on renewable energies.

40. An ambitious and development-oriented agreement on the Doha Development Round remained elusive. The Committee needed to send a strong message of political commitment to the swift completion of the Round. The decline that the current crisis was causing in the volume of international trade, particularly in the exports of developing countries, and the rise of protectionist tendencies had made that goal even more pressing.

41. It was of utmost importance to address the special development needs of Africa, since that continent was the farthest from achieving the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals in particular. Concrete actions had to be taken to implement the agreements reached in the United Nations political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, particularly with regard to the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring implementation of development commitments.

42. Egypt reiterated its long-standing commitment to support the development challenges and needs of all categories of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, which now required new and additional support and resources from the international community to deal with the current challenging global situation. Egypt also attached great importance to other United Nations processes taking place outside the Second Committee that directly affected its deliberations, such as the ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. The Committee needed in its deliberations to be mindful of progress made in those processes, while also remaining conscious of others under way outside the United Nations but which also directly impacted the Committee's work. For example, Egypt believed that the efforts of the G-20 would benefit from greater coordination with the United Nations and that its composition needed to be more representative, especially with regard to Africa.

43. **Ms. Viotti** (Brazil) observed that, while a global economic meltdown had perhaps been avoided, a sustained and robust recovery still needed to be secured, particularly for developing countries. The root causes of the pressing food security issues had yet to be adequately addressed. At the same time, the threat posed by climate change remained ever present. As the President of Brazil had pointed out in his address to the General Assembly, in an increasingly interdependent world, collective action was not an option but a necessity, and the United Nations remained the appropriate forum for such effort.

44. Overcoming the financial and economic crisis remained an ongoing concern, especially for developing countries. At the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, the G-20 London and Pittsburgh summits and many other international gatherings, a host of measures had been devised to avoid economic collapse and lay the foundations for recovery. But much more needed to be done: developing countries needed new and additional resources for the implementation of countercyclical policies; financial market regulations needed to be overhauled so as to avoid a recurrence of the problems which had generated the crisis. The governance structures of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank must be reformed in order to reflect a more balanced set of interests and to respond to new economic realities by giving greater voice and representation to developing countries. In that regard, the recent commitments made in Pittsburgh, although still insufficient, were a step in the right direction.

45. Concerns over food security remained. In addition to ensuring that sufficient food reached the hungry and vulnerable, it was necessary to address the underlying distortions that had generated under-investment in agriculture, particularly in the developing countries. Brazil therefore welcomed the FAO World Summit on Food Security, to be held in Rome in November, as an opportunity to discuss an integrated approach to food security leading to

comprehensive and long-lasting solutions. Such an approach must include investment in production and infrastructure, research, trade, social safety nets, emergency food assistance and nutrition. Special attention and support should be given to the food and agricultural needs of Africa. In enhancing food security governance, it was imperative to strengthen FAO and, in particular, its Committee on World Food Security.

46. Responding to the impacts of climate change was also crucial, given the clear link between climate change and development. The world could not be kept waiting: bold commitments must be made in Copenhagen. Nothing short of a comprehensive and ambitious agreement, within the setting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, would meet the challenge of keeping global warming well below the 2 degrees Celsius target. For developing countries to embark on a low-carbon development path, access to and transfer of technology were imperative, as were adequate new and additional financial resources for nationally appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions, under the provisions of the Framework Convention.

47. Implementation of the agreements reached in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in 2002 in Johannesburg, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was all the more relevant and urgent today. Despite progress in many areas, environmental degradation affected the livelihood of millions worldwide, particularly in developing countries. It was important to recommit to the agreements and follow through with appropriate means of implementation, if the world was to be able to ensure economic growth with environmental protection and social advancement.

48. Brazil had been encouraged by the support it had received from many countries for its offer to host a new conference on sustainable development in 2012. Brazil stood ready to engage with partners to define the themes of the conference, in the hope that broad agreement could be reached and be reflected in the resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21 to be adopted by the Committee.

49. In the face of the current challenges, United Nations operational activities must continue to prioritize initiatives aiming at development assistance and poverty eradication in accordance with national development priorities and plans. The specialized agencies, funds and programmes were uniquely placed to mobilize the necessary resources to support national efforts. Brazil was ready to work constructively with the United Nations development system, not only in its day-to-day activities, but also to improve its conceptual design, governance framework and rules of procedure.

50. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) observed that globalization had undoubtedly created many opportunities, but also a range of problems in attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Making use of those opportunities, a number of developing countries had made important strides in reducing poverty and eradicating hunger and epidemics. However, more than halfway to the deadline for achieving the Goal of halving poverty by 2015, their progress was starting to falter as a result both of the global financial and economic crisis and of the food crisis. That situation should be the starting point of the Committee's dialogue in the current year, since it would have major implications for cooperation for development.

51. Although the crisis had originated primarily in developed countries, the least developed countries would be the most affected by its consequences, being less able to take measures to protect themselves. Consequently, the interest of those countries had to be at the heart of the endeavours to find a solution to the crisis. It was of critical importance that the world financial system be restructured in a way that provided developing countries with sufficient resources, did not impede their capacity to develop their domestic resources, and allowed for the existence of a domestic system that supported local investments for the mobilization of such resources.

52. Qatar attached great importance to South-South cooperation, and to triangular cooperation involving countries of the North, in the economic, financial and technical fields. As Chairman of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, he found it heartening that all Member States had agreed on the draft resolution on the high-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Kenya in December.

53. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals required the creation of enabling conditions at both the national and international levels in order to mobilize the necessary financial resources. Thus, global partnership was of great importance for the revitalization of efforts to achieve the Goals, whose progress would be reviewed at the high-level plenary meeting in 2010. In that context, the continuing deadlock in the negotiations on the Doha Round posed a significant threat to the multilateral trading system, as well as to countries' ability to achieve the Goals. Qatar called on the developed countries to demonstrate good faith and flexibility to ensure the success of the Doha Round.

54. Turning to climate change, he emphasized Qatar's full commitment to the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular Principle VII on common but differentiated responsibilities, the continuing implementation of Agenda 21, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. Effective solutions to climate change could be found only through an integrated approach within the framework of the sustainable development process. The world summit on sustainable development to be held in Brazil in 2012 would be a real test of the international community's readiness to shoulder its responsibilities.

55. Motivated by its belief in the economic and social dimension of development, Qatar would host the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2009, to review the progress achieved by States Parties in the fight against all corrupt practices that hampered economic growth. Despite the challenges, Qatar was optimistic about the international community's awareness of its responsibility, and its resilience in dealing with unusual crises.

56. **Mr. Mbuende** (Namibia) said that the danger of climate change was revealed in daily occurrences. Climate change was man-made, the result of historical patterns of production and consumption that had undermined the basis of mankind's very existence. It had been a slow process, during which warnings signs had been ignored by those who for their own interests denied its reality and by those who pursued economic benefits while jeopardizing mankind's very existence. As developing countries made headway with their industrialization and development, they too became significant emitters of greenhouse gases, a trend that was likely to continue unless arrested through a combination of national initiatives and multilateral agreements. But the right to development could not be exercised at the expense of the right to life: two wrongs did not make a right.

57. Climate change diplomacy currently consisted of identifying what needed to be done, involving the sharing of information about the activities of each country or group of countries at the national or regional level on the one hand and statements of principle about what ought to happen at the multilateral level on the other. Climate change was global in character: national initiatives were important but would become meaningful only if synchronized with multilateral agreements in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and backed by collective action. Failure in Copenhagen was not an option. Financial commitments and predictable flows should be a key ingredient of any agreement reached in Copenhagen, in order to assist developing countries to take nationally appropriate mitigation actions and to develop a low-carbon economy. Substantial resources should be made available for research and development with a view to improving existing technologies and developing new ones and providing them to developing countries.

58. The current world economic crisis represented a historic opportunity to end the phenomenon of boom and bust that had characterized the world economy for years. Deregulation of the economy had led to anarchy and eventually to financial disaster. Those who had profited from the system had ignored the warning signals; when the signals had become too loud to be ignored, attempts had been made to rescue the culprits. The current meltdown had put huge pressure on national budgets. It had caused balance-of-payments problems, increased unemployment and worsened poverty. The WTO Doha Round remained deadlocked and had yet to deliver on its development promise. Free trade was under threat from protectionist tendencies, which if allowed to continue would negatively impact development and the fight against poverty and hunger. Namibia therefore called on all negotiating groups to make a concerted effort to reach an agreement and unlock the potential of trade to contribute to development. A governance structure should be put in place that would ensure that the

current crisis was not repeated and that countries' economies could survive cyclical shocks.

59. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) observed that economic development and technological progress over the past 60 years had not been able to solve the eternal problems of poverty and hunger. The gap between the rich and the poor continued to grow, and the United Nations with its specialized agencies, funds and programmes was the sole global organization capable of addressing such problems. The economic crisis of 2008 had caused the world to revisit many conceptual approaches that earlier had seemed carved in stone. The importance of implementing the Outcomes of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2008 Doha Review Conference, the 2009 United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis, as well as those of other conferences and summits, could not be overstated.

60. The slowdown in the global economy had reversed progress on the road to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 for many Member States, and now required a doubling if not tripling of the efforts of both developing and donor countries to mitigate the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis. As a part of the preparation for the high-level plenary meeting in 2010, each MDG task and indicator should be revised and adapted to the socio-economic realities of each country, with a more objective picture provided of implementation in the context of countries' various regions.

61. Kazakhstan was taking concrete measures to implement the Millennium Development Goals; strengthening the goals that had already been attained, improving the quality of life for all citizens and mainstreaming environmental sustainability and socially oriented development policy in all national, sectoral and local strategies and processes were cornerstones of State policy. Despite the economic circumstances, the Government continued to fulfil its social commitments. The anti-crisis measures also included stimulus plans for human capital development and employment, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, and the country's development priorities were based on the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action.

62. A new Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2010-2015 had been signed in April, covering United Nations activities in the areas of economic and social well-being, sustainable development and effective public administration, including preventing and combating corrupt practices, all of which were in line with Kazakhstan's national priorities.

63. Thanks to government measures, Kazakhstan had managed to retain stability in its domestic food market, in contrast to the food crisis in many countries. It had improved investment in the agricultural sector, but would in fact be able to produce larger yields of food products if sufficient financial resources were provided to the agricultural sector. As a middle-income State, Kazakhstan would be co-financing the projects in the new UNDAF programme cycle, and looked forward to learning about best practices in predictable innovative forms of financing, especially through public-private partnerships for development and involvement of the socially responsible private sector for generating economic growth and promoting an enabling environment for all. Kazakhstan agreed that food security issues should be addressed through a balanced approach with observance of the international fair trade norms, support for humanitarian assistance and sustainable development of agriculture. Kazakhstan was ready to increase its contribution to resolution of the global food crisis by not only increasing the volume of grain production, but also increasing exports. In 2009 Kazakhstan anticipated a grain harvest yielding more than 17 million tons, mostly intended for export. However, despite Kazakhstan's export potential and self-sufficiency in supplying its domestic market with basic food products, arable lands throughout the country suffered from scarce annual precipitation, a factor of concern especially in conditions of considerable climate change.

64. Transboundary water resource management in Central Asia remained a priority for Kazakhstan. Drought and desertification in Kazakhstan had their roots deep in the country's geographical, climatic and historical legacy. Kazakhstan was grateful to the United Nations specialized agencies, international financial institutions, donor countries and other partners for their assistance and support in addressing the problems of the Aral Sea basin. Kazakhstan stood ready to collaborate further in enhancing governance over water resources.

65. On 17 September 2009, Kazakhstan had officially become a party to the Kyoto Protocol, and its Annex I. By 2050, Kazakhstan would cut its carbon emissions by 25 per cent, measured against 1990 levels, and intended to be fully engaged with all Member States in the final stage of negotiations that could pave the way to a low-carbon environment in the post-Kyoto period.

66. Kazakhstan considered regional and subregional cooperation to be an essential element of the State's sustainable development. Kazakhstan's geopolitical location between Europe and Asia enabled it to harmonize European and Asian approaches to international trade, energy, transport, environmental protection, and so on. Expanding and deepening cooperation with the countries of Europe and Asia was one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, which sought the peaceful and sustained political and economic development of all neighbouring states. As Chair-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Kazakhstan intended to make stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan one of the most important priorities of that Organization, and would continue to render humanitarian and technical assistance to that country.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

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Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group was a mechanism for dialogue, consultation and collaboration at the political level which sought to promote democratic values and regional development within the framework of multilateralism and international law. Consequently, the Group considered it crucial to provide a regional perspective to the issues examined by the Committee.

2. Member countries attached great importance to the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group established under General Assembly resolution 63/305 to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, and to implementation of the mandates given to the Economic and Social Council in the Outcome document. After consulting with the Chairs of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group should make recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to remedy the serious flaws in the international economic and financial system and to mitigate the effects of the crisis on development, inter alia, by strengthening the United Nations system.

3. The General Assembly should take note of the Economic and Social Council's recommendations in order to strengthen the follow-up mechanism of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, as they gave a balanced view of the different positions on financing for development. The United Nations was in an excellent position to take part in the different reform processes, and the Second Committee should make a substantive contribution to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held in November 2009, which would fuel discussions between the Economic and Social Council and the international financial institutions during the first half of 2010. In that context, it would be interesting to consider the mandates contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, particularly with regard to improving collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Furthermore, financing for development should be seen as an instrument to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In that context, the issue should be discussed during the preparations for the high-level meeting on the MDGs to be held in September 2010.

4. Trade and investment were essential engines of development, and the Group was concerned about the potential impact on its member countries of the resurgence of protectionism as a response to the current global crisis, particularly measures that could have an adverse impact on their efforts to counteract the negative effects of the crisis and delay recovery. Steps should be taken to ensure that the costs arising from the economic and financial crisis, which had originated in the industrialized world, were not transferred to developing countries, especially the most vulnerable among them. In that context, the Group reaffirmed the legitimate right of developing countries to use safeguard mechanisms to defend national production from serious threats or harm, in keeping with the pertinent World Trade Organization (WTO) provisions.

5. The Doha Round negotiations should be brought to a satisfactory conclusion emphasizing the development dimension. Trade distortion practices should be totally abolished; in particular, developed countries should eliminate subsidies for agricultural exports. The Committee would be examining the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. The Group was extremely concerned about the adverse effects of such measures, especially in its member countries, in the context of the current international economic and financial crisis, and also because of the negative impact of such measures on international cooperation and on the establishment of a fair and non-discriminatory multilateral free trade system. Urgent steps should be taken to prevent the use of those measures against developing countries.

6. Recognizing the relationship between disarmament and development, the Group reiterated its concern regarding global military expenditure, much of which could be redirected at international efforts to promote development and eliminate poverty.

7. The issue of middle-income countries was of special interest to the Rio Group, because such countries had specific needs and required the continued support of the international community in order to consolidate their gains in the area of development and to avoid setbacks. In that context, it welcomed the

report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries that was on the Committee's agenda. Furthermore, it called on the international community to pay attention to the specific needs of the region's landlocked developing countries.

8. South-South cooperation should be complementary and never replace North-South cooperation or exempt donor countries from their responsibilities and commitments towards developing countries. Nevertheless, it had proved to be an effective tool in international development efforts, and preparations for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Kenya in December 2009 should occupy a prominent place during the Committee's current session. The Group understood that the Conference would examine the changes that had occurred and the progress made over the last 30 years and that, during the preparation process, discussions would be held on issues of interest to all Member States in order to reach a consensus that reflected the importance of international efforts to support South-South development cooperation. In that regard, the Group highlighted the importance of the role played by South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. On the issue of food security, the international community should urgently adopt comprehensive and coordinated measures at the multilateral and regional levels to overcome the food crisis and alleviate its effects on the most vulnerable, in the context of the current global economic crisis. Decisive measures should be taken to promote investment in the agricultural sector, while avoiding speculation and price volatility in food markets and ensuring full access to food for all. Furthermore, obstacles to market access for the agricultural products of developing countries should be combated in order to stimulate agriculture worldwide. Conditions must be created to develop national agricultural systems sustainably. Hence, it was essential to transfer appropriate technology to developing countries in order to increase agricultural yields and guarantee the current and future food supply for the growing world population. In addition, international scientific research cooperation should be supported, and cooperation in relation to food security should be provided to all developing countries and regions that needed it in order to resolve the crisis without causing further harm to natural resources or widening the agricultural divide. Moreover, greater complementarity and coherence among international and regional organizations should be encouraged to avoid the duplication and proliferation of food security initiatives.

10. A comprehensive approach to sustainable development was needed based on coordinating economic and social development with environmental protection. Actions in that area were especially relevant for the Group's member countries that were facing significant problems as a result of the current crises and the effects of climate change; the consequences could be devastating if adequate measures were not taken. It therefore called again on the developed countries to meet their corresponding commitments, particularly as regards granting financial assistance and transferring technology to developing countries. Lastly, the Group indicated its willingness to undertake discussions with other groups or individuals in order to identify matters of mutual interest to be promoted in the different negotiation mechanisms.

11. **Ms. Moses** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, namely Fiji, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu, and her own country, said that the work of the Second Committee was of crucial importance to those States because, as the international community had recognized, they faced significant vulnerabilities which prevented them from achieving sustainable development.

12. The Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Plan of Action, the Monterrey Consensus and the Millennium Declaration were playing a significant role in helping them overcome their weaknesses; however, specific actions to achieve the objectives of those agreements remained inadequate, owing to the lack of technical, financial and human resources, exacerbated by the global economic crisis. Also, overall progress in achieving the MDGs remained too slow due, in part, to insufficient donor assistance. Official development assistance (ODA) remained distressingly short of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI). The global economic crisis should not deter developed countries from providing the assistance required to achieve the MDGs; moreover, it was urgent to reform the global financial architecture, as that would go a long way towards strengthening the global economy and protecting the poor and vulnerable.

13. The United Nations should increase its presence in the region by opening offices in each of the Pacific small island developing Member States so as to allow them full access to the United Nations agencies and their services. Furthermore, it should work closely with national Governments and regional organizations to help gather accurate data and statistics to enable the countries to monitor their own social and economic progress.

14. Climate change and sea-level rise were the most pressing security issues facing the Pacific region; in the coming decades, tens of thousands of people faced displacement and the region's sustainable development was being undermined. The islands' ability to provide the necessary means of subsistence for their people was threatened, and they would not feel truly secure until the climate crisis was adequately addressed. While the renewed enthusiasm to respond to climate change expressed during the general debate of the General Assembly was welcome, rhetoric alone was insufficient. For the Pacific small island States to have any hope of achieving sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, any agreement reached in Copenhagen should protect the most vulnerable nations and incorporate the elements set out in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration on Climate Change 2009.

15. An essential component of their position was the need for new financing and technology transfer to assist with mitigation and adaptation, over and above agreed development assistance. The limited population of many islands and the small scale of the adaptation projects specifically excluded them from the eligibility criteria of many financing opportunities. In addition, they lacked the human capacity to comply with all the obligations. The cooperation of the United Nations and other donors was required to develop a Pacific Template, a set of project financing guidelines endorsed by relevant stakeholders that would help streamline access to adaptation and mitigation funding for Pacific island communities. The international community's failure to meet existing ODA commitments and to pledge and deliver the necessary assistance for mitigation and adaptation to climate change was undermining the legitimacy of the entire United Nations system. The Pacific small island States were facing almost insurmountable obstacles to achieving sustainable development, but were willing to do whatever was required to achieve real momentum towards sustainable development for their peoples.

16. **Mr. Galvez** (Chile) said that the poorest and most vulnerable economies could not continue waiting for the developed countries to fulfil their financial commitments. Chile trusted that the United Nations system would continue to examine the issue through the Open-ended Working Group mandated to follow up on the commitments made during the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in June 2009. The Committee should also make a substantive contribution to the preparations for the high-level meeting on the MDGs to be held in 2010.

17. The Summit on Climate Change convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2009 had been an excellent opportunity for countries to share their experiences at the highest level and to send a clear message of commitment to the environment prior to Copenhagen. Furthermore, it was important to develop the planet's enormous agricultural potential by a more comprehensive liberalization of international trade in agricultural products as one of the expected results of the Doha Round, as well as through bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements.

18. Close collaboration between the preparations for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Kenya in December 2009, and the work of the Second Committee was important because, in the coming weeks, the smaller delegations from developing countries that considered triangular and South-South cooperation to be an effective development tool would have to address both tasks simultaneously.

19. Lastly, his delegation recommended that parallel events proposed during the session should be of real interest to the delegations, so as to avoid overloading the Committee's agenda with unnecessary activities. Moreover, the election of participants and panellists should take account of equitable geographical distribution.

20. **Mr. Bui The Giang** (Viet Nam) said that the international community was facing formidable challenges in all aspects of development owing to the global economic downturn. Developing countries, especially the least developed countries with vulnerable economies, were facing increasing difficulties in achieving equitable growth and

development. In many cases, progress towards achieving the MDGs had ceased or fallen behind schedule. Consequently, the synergy of the entire international community was needed to address the challenges, and the United Nations should be strengthened so that it could play a central role in the overall response to the global challenges. Member States should fulfil their international commitments and promote global cooperation and partnerships. Developing countries should increase their efforts to improve governance and the use of the increasingly scarcer resources. Developed countries should do more to assist developing countries by promoting trade, mobilizing development resources, rescheduling debt, transferring technology and facilitating participation in the international financial architecture in order to build a better world.

21. Viet Nam had made every effort to overcome the negative impact of the global crisis on the country, especially in rural areas where nearly 70 per cent of the population lived. It had adopted a wide range of economic policies and measures, including several stimulus packages to curb economic slowdown, promote growth and ensure social security, and had adjusted its policies to ensure recovery from the crisis and more sustainable development in the long-term, with excellent results. However, international support and assistance were required in order to achieve full recovery and sustainable development. Viet Nam was prepared to cooperate with other countries throughout the process.

22. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that although the world economy showed some signs of recovery, the impact of the worldwide financial and economic crisis was still in evidence in many developing countries where there had been an increase in poverty, a rise in unemployment, a reduction in exports, a reduction in direct foreign investment and a fall in the earnings of their workers abroad.

23. The momentum of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development must be maintained and built upon. The United Nations should not spare its efforts to bring about a radical reform of the international economic and financial system so as to meet the needs of the twenty-first century, including the reform of the institutions of the Bretton Woods system involving increased representation of the developing countries, abolition of the political conditionality attached to the loans granted by those institutions and the participation of the developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making.

24. The Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 had deprived the Syrian economy of outstanding agricultural, human and water resources. The Occupying Power continued to exhaust the natural resources of the Golan, denying Syrians the right to make use of them and engaging in irresponsible practices that seriously degraded the environment. He called on the Committee to draw attention to the economic, environmental and social impact of the foreign occupation, which had been acknowledged by reports and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolution 63/201. The impact of foreign occupation was all the more severe for the population who were already suffering from the crisis that affected every aspect of their economic, financial, social and political existence.

25. The developing countries continued to encounter obstacles to membership in WTO, a fact that hindered their efforts to achieve economic development and integration in the world economy. His country had officially applied to join WTO in 2001 but, because of the opposition of one influential member, the application had not been placed on the agenda of WTO despite the reaffirmation of the application in 2004 and the measures taken by the Syrian Government in preparation for membership. He called on the Committee to reaffirm the importance of not politicizing the process of joining WTO or using it as a means of exerting political pressure. It was essential to implement General Assembly resolution 62/184 on international trade and development, which called for facilitating the accession of all developing countries to membership in WTO.

26. The unilateral economic measures imposed on some of the developing countries by certain developed countries undermined the international trading system and impeded the efforts of the developing countries to build their own economies, face up to the world economic and financial crisis and achieve sustainable development. In 2004, in breach of the principles of international trade and of international law, the United States of America had taken unilateral trade measures against the Syrian Arab Republic which were still in force. His delegation condemned any State that took or encouraged unilateral action as a coercive measure against another State in order to impose on it a state of subservience in the exercise of its political rights, and

called for compliance with General Assembly resolution 26/183 entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries".

27. **Mr. Shalgham** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the right to development should be a tangible reality, but the response to the repeated requests of many developing countries, including the least developed, for support for their development programmes was inadequate to enable them to attain their goals. Those requests arose from a historic claim against the colonialist countries to compensation for the material and human damage of colonialism. Acknowledgement of that right by the international community would do much to resolve the international difficulties and crises that gave rise to illegal immigration and political and social instability in many regions of the world. His delegation looked forward to the international summit to be held in 2010 to review progress towards attainment of the MDGs.

28. Many countries, especially the poorer ones, sometimes faced acute food crises which condemned millions of people to a cycle of hunger and poverty. The international policies of the past two decades had not adequately addressed the threats to food security, which were exacerbated by the increase in population and the impact of climate change, the fall in agricultural output and the misdirection of capital to speculation on food prices. The developing countries should be encouraged to invest in agriculture and the rich countries should abandon the policy of protecting their agricultural produce. That would facilitate competition and open the way for developing countries to increase their agricultural output.

29. His country had put policies into effect to increase food production and had taken part in efforts to ensure food security throughout the African continent. It had allocated the sum of 8 billion United States dollars to finance food production projects in a number of Sahelian and Saharan countries, and its Head of State had put forward an initiative to contain the hunger crisis in Africa through self-sufficiency and the utilization of modern machinery and technology to reclaim land in Africa and bring vast areas under cultivation. As a contribution to that project, his country had donated 300 agricultural tractors to a number of African countries together with quantities of fertilizer and seeds, and had conducted a major campaign to inoculate cattle in twelve African States.

30. His country supported international efforts to reach a comprehensive international agreement on the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol on climate change which should be based on the principle agreed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, namely that all States had common but differentiated responsibilities. The people of poor countries were more at risk from climate change and were the first to suffer from the greenhouse gases produced by the advanced countries. It was therefore incumbent on other countries to support development plans and programmes for those countries and encourage national policies to alleviate the impact of climate change, in particular by providing know-how and training opportunities and facilitating their access to technology. The effort to limit emissions should not be restricted to research on renewable energy, but should also include the promotion of modern technology for the production of clean energy from fossil fuels. His delegation hoped that all parties would show the necessary flexibility and the political will to reach a comprehensive international agreement concerning climate change at the forthcoming conference in Copenhagen.

31. The current financial crisis was the result of an international monetary and economic system formed over the course of over 60 years and governed by unjust principles. The developing countries had asked repeatedly for radical reform of the international financial institutions to ensure that they were strongly represented and could play an effective role within those institutions in devising humane and development-oriented international monetary policies. The policies of the Group of 20 (G-20) designed to stimulate the world economy had been adopted in the absence of the countries that were most affected by the financial crisis, but had not caused it. The G-20 should be expanded to include regional blocs that would express the concerns of all. The Addis Ababa Declaration on the International Financial Crisis had expressed regret at the underrepresentation of Africa in the G-20. Many of the countries of Africa, including his own, depended on the export of a single commodity and were seriously affected by price fluctuations resulting from the financial crisis; their capacity to finance sustainable development programmes and attain the MDGs was thus impaired. The increase in illegal migration caused by the crisis posed problems to both transit countries and destination countries. Development of the productive sectors of countries of origin must be encouraged so as to achieve sustained

economic development to provide for the economic well-being and social stability of the unemployed.

32. Strengthened cooperation between the countries of the South would be an important step in the joint exploitation of natural and human resources. Implementation of the recommendations of the summit conferences of the countries of the South would serve to improve their economic performance and raise their standard of living. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the convening of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held shortly in Kenya.

33. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's commitment to sustainable development to satisfy present needs without impairing the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was eager to continue to strengthen its national economy and improve its performance in various areas as well as to encourage foreign participation in productive and service-oriented projects. It also looked forward to active participation in world trade, and sought the support of all members of WTO for its efforts to become a member of the organization.

34. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that the current financial crisis, which had spared no country, was a forceful reminder of the world's interdependence and the urgent need for a coherent multilateral approach to the resulting problems. The decisions and guidelines contained in the Outcome of the June 2009 Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development and the measures proposed by the Group of 20 suggested solutions that would help overcome the crisis. However, although the effects of the financial crisis on the developed countries were beginning to fade, its consequences for the developing economies were far from over, particularly with respect to the food crisis and the obstacles to achieving the MDGs. The magnitude of the capital mobilized following the economic crisis revealed that the financial resources to win the war against hunger existed, but were beyond the reach of the poorer countries where those who were hungry lived.

35. Nevertheless, those countries had undertaken actions to limit the effects of the crises; for example, Senegal had provided substantial direct and indirect subsidies to reduce the impact of the unprecedented increases in food and oil prices. In addition, in 2008, the country had launched a programme to reduce its dependence on food imports by increasing national production of rice and cereals. The rural revolution was also designed to convert agriculture into a mechanism for strengthening the economy, and focused on creating farmers' associations and rural banks as tools for enhancing capabilities and financing activities, respectively. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was another means of eradicating hunger and food insecurity, reducing poverty and increasing export opportunities. Nevertheless, solutions to the current crises evidently required significantly more resources than the African countries were able to provide within the framework of national and regional initiatives. Thus, the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 depended on the availability and accessibility of sufficient resources.

36. The recent Summit on Climate Change had resulted in a strong political message, which Senegal hoped would be echoed in Copenhagen. A reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases was urgent, and Africa was ready to contribute to the global effort to achieve the Global Green New Deal, provided its economic development was not jeopardized. Thus, Africa required the means, not only to ensure each country's development, but also to take measures to adapt to the effects of climate change. Several initiatives had already been implemented, including the Great Green Wall, a green band of trees stretching from Dakar to Djibouti that, once complete, would benefit the entire planet. However, whatever actions the developing countries undertook, without a clear commitment from the developed countries to make adequate resources available on a non-discriminatory basis, there was a high risk that the efforts made to find an acceptable and effective post-Kyoto system would prove to be in vain in Copenhagen.

37. Lastly, other global commitments in favour of development should be implemented in order to help the efforts of the poorest and most vulnerable countries overcome poverty. That involved the fulfilment of commitments concerning assistance and financing, but also fair international trade free from the agricultural subsidies and protectionism that had played a major role in destroying the economic and social fabric of Africa's developing countries.

38. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that the current international financial crisis, the decline in agricultural

commodity markets and problems caused by climate change posed particularly severe challenges to developing countries, especially those in Africa, thereby severely jeopardizing their progress towards attainment of the MDGs. The achievement of the Goals and other international development objectives must remain a priority for the United Nations.

39. His delegation welcomed the consensus adopted in the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. Concrete measures should be implemented, particularly with respect to global governance of international finance, international trade and sustainable development, and international financial institutions should provide long- and short-term financing focusing on socio-economic development. The international community should establish a development-oriented international monetary and financial system that was inclusive, transparent and regulated.

40. His delegation hoped that the political will Member States had demonstrated at the Summit on Climate Change would lead to an equitable agreement at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen that would benefit the entire international community. Negotiations to that end should be conducted in full compliance with the principles of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The agreement should also unambiguously enunciate the expectations of African and other developing countries with regard to financing and the transfer of technology. The challenges of poverty elimination were exacerbated by climate change, and those issues must be addressed in tandem. More forceful action was needed to assist the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, as well as regions affected by drought, flooding, soil degradation and desertification.

41. Measures to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure sustainable development were essential when tackling food insecurity. In that connection, the World Summit on Food Security, to be convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome in November 2009, should establish more coherent and efficient national and international mechanisms for ensuring food security.

42. In conclusion, he said that his country attached great importance to strengthening South-South cooperation, particularly in the current global context. Such cooperation should be guided by principles based on solidarity.

43. **Mr. Webb** (United States of America) urged the Committee to strive for consensus and cooperation and invigorate its constructive engagement on the crucial issues of sustainable economic development comprising its agenda.

44. Many countries continued to suffer the knock-on effects of the financial and economic crisis. Although many countries had taken swift and decisive action to stabilize the world economy, address the root causes of the crisis and position themselves for renewed growth, it was important to remain vigilant in order to ensure a return to world growth. It was essential to be particularly mindful of the impact of the crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

45. At the Pittsburgh Summit 2009, the G-20 had agreed to sustain national stimulus plans until growth was restored; had adopted a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth; and had pledged to take concrete steps to reform domestic and international financial regulations, to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and to take steps towards reforming the system of global economic cooperation and governance. His delegation looked forward to a vigorous discussion of those issues in the Committee and at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in November 2009.

46. The G-20 and other multilateral economic institutions and processes must work in partnership, complementing one another's strengths and comparative advantages and combining capable, effective leadership and initiative with durable global consensus-building. The United Nations, with its broad representation and longstanding experience dealing with countries in special situations, and the Second Committee, with its focus on the development perspective, had a major role to play in the discussions. Deliberations should focus first and foremost on strategies for promoting development in the midst of multiple global challenges.

47. The recent decision by the General Assembly to establish a new United Nations gender entity demonstrated a new level of global recognition for the vital role of women in economic and social

development and in promoting peace and security. The Committee should systematically reflect gender perspectives in its resolutions, and the new entity should be established quickly, should be structured to ensure effectiveness and should be headed by a strong leader.

48. With regard to the critical challenge of climate change, Member States owed it to their citizens and future generations to give full support to the efforts of the negotiators in Copenhagen to prepare a global post-2012 climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

49. In the area of science and technology for development, he underscored the important role of cybersecurity in promoting and protecting economic development

50. Lastly, he said that his delegation looked forward to laying a solid foundation during the current session of the General Assembly for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to promote more rapid progress towards the attainment of the MDGs.

51. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the developing countries, which had played no role in bringing about the economic and financial crisis, were bearing the brunt of its impact and did not have adequate resources with which to salvage their economies. Owing to increasing financial and economic interdependence, and notwithstanding efforts at the national and international levels to assist them, the developing countries, particularly the poorest among them, were increasingly prone to external fluctuations.

52. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development had provided an opportunity to increase the resilience of developing countries in response to external shocks. It was to be hoped that the establishment of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference and of the ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development would reduce the vulnerability of developing countries as they confronted economic and financial difficulties.

53. His delegation once again urged the developed countries to establish timetables for achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA to developing countries by 2015 in order to help those countries meet their development goals and the MDGs in a timely manner.

54. The United Nations had a critical role to play in strengthening the global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national ownership and national development strategies, and in securing full implementation of agreed development goals and commitments.

55. The 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the MDGs should take stock of existing gaps in the achievement of the Goals and identify actions — including strengthening international cooperation — needed to place their achievement back on track and maintain the momentum. Adequate financial and technical resources should be allocated in the case of targets which lagged furthest behind.

56. No country or group of countries, no matter how big or powerful, had the right to issue mandates and set tasks for international institutions with a broader membership. The conduct of the G-20 in that regard was unacceptable. Countries which were not members of such exclusive clubs had no obligation to abide by their decisions. He reiterated his delegation's call for the United Nations itself to address the problem of persistent systemic inequities in international economic relations, in particular the unacceptable lack of sufficient progress in enhancing the participation of developing countries in international financial and monetary institutions.

57. Given the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, which complemented North-South and triangular cooperation, his delegation hoped that the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in December 2009 would prove successful.

58. His delegation had taken note of the progress made thus far in the deliberations on United Nations system-wide coherence and looked forward to thorough, balanced and genuine coherence that would enable the United Nations to fulfil its mandates effectively in all major areas of interest to the General Assembly.

59. With regard to sustainable development, he said that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable

patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development were overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. A balance must be ensured among economic development, social development and environmental protection, which were interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development.

60. It was imperative to address climate change within the context of sustainable development and to adhere to internationally agreed principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Industrialized countries, particularly the most developed among them, bore the major responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and should take the lead in mitigating their impact. All impediments to the transfer of climate change technologies to developing countries must be eliminated.

61. The needs of developing countries in the four major components of the Bali Action Plan, namely mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology should be addressed as an integral part of any post-Kyoto agreement and should preserve the right of those countries to access technology, know-how and finance, with a view to enabling them to protect their ecological sustainability and socio-economic prosperity and achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, particularly the goal of poverty eradication.

62. Equal efforts were also needed to address other environmental issues such as deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity, which threatened the livelihoods of billions of people.

63. In recent years, dust storms and sandstorms had wreaked substantial socio-economic damage in the western half of his country. A regional approach to those consequences of environmental degradation was essential, and Iran stood ready to enter into bilateral and multilateral arrangements to identify the root causes and eradicate them in a collective, coordinated and cooperative manner involving all stricken countries and relevant international institutions.

64. **Mr. Ben Tura** (Israel) said that bold collective action was needed to overcome the universal threat of climate change. His country was committed to achieving the goals enunciated in the declaration adopted at the Summit on Climate Change. As a committed party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and the post-2012 negotiations, it hoped that substantial progress would be made at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. A future climate change regime should take into account national, social, economic and environmental circumstances and all countries should commit to it in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

65. Solutions to the financial and economic crisis must pay special attention to its adverse impact on the most vulnerable populations. Common and coordinated action must be taken to diminish the negative impact of the crisis on the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs. To that end, Israel, in partnership with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), would host a conference in November 2009 on the financial implications of the current crisis for women.

66. Food security remained a matter of serious concern. His delegation planned to introduce a draft resolution on agricultural technology for development calling upon Member States to develop and implement sustainable agricultural technologies as a means to combat poverty and hunger and ensure better production and safer land use. The draft resolution would build upon General Assembly resolution 62/190 — which his delegation had been pleased to have drafted and co-sponsored — and he urged consensus on the matter.

67. Israel had taken important steps towards achieving the MDGs, in particular through its cooperation with developing countries. Such efforts included assistance to Africa provided in line with guidelines of the New Partnership for Africa's Development through MASHAV, the Foreign Ministry's centre for international cooperation. The Third International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification: The Route to Restoration would be held in Israel in 2010.

68. With regard to health and population growth, his country looked forward to chairing the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development. Many health matters vied for resources and it was important to focus on those that were most

pervasive and on which the impact could be the greatest, including pneumonia.

69. Women's empowerment was intrinsically linked to all of the issues dealt with in the Committee. Women bore the heaviest burdens when disasters struck, crises arose and Governments failed. The Committee must intensify its efforts to guarantee that girls and women had the same opportunities as boys and men.

70. **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia) said that the United Nations should focus on defining its role in efforts to improve the global economy, particularly with regard to the establishment of the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth adopted at the recent G-20 Summit and to its relationship with the emerging structure of global governance.

71. The key issue was how to address imbalances in the global economy, particularly the supply disruptions caused by the crisis, and the global pattern of demand. Most developing countries had invested heavily in an export-driven model, and changes would result in dislocation and high social adjustment costs. Sufficient time had yet to be devoted to measures to mitigate adjustment costs. Given its wealth of analytical and operational expertise, the United Nations was especially well-equipped to address those issues.

72. When considering the new Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, the United Nations should advocate the view that global growth and social progress were global public goods; formulate concrete views on components of the framework; make better use of the Organization's unrivalled ability to predict medium- and long-term trends; and, drawing on best practices worldwide, recommend the best ways to minimize adjustment costs.

73. The recent Pittsburgh Summit had designated the G-20 as the participants' primary forum for their international economic cooperation. Although the G-20 was far more representative than the G-8, questions remained as to how representative and inclusive it truly was. The challenge for the G-20 process was how to make it more legitimate and more effective.

74. In addressing ways to maximize cooperation within the G-20, the Group must simultaneously consider how to improve links with the broader international community. The Group could complement the work of the United Nations, for example, by having the chairperson of its Summit address relevant meetings of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, inasmuch as the G-20 often requested the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and even the United Nations to undertake certain measures, questions arose as to the governance structures of those bodies and the prerogatives of their members.

75. **Mr. Aongola** (Zambia) said that the global financial and economic crisis had had a severe impact on commodity-dependent economies, particularly those reliant on primary commodity exports. The Zambian economy had been severely affected by the plunge in copper prices, inasmuch as copper mining accounted for approximately 70 per cent of the country's exports and almost 10 per cent of total formal employment. That problem, along with a slowdown in other sectors, had negatively affected Government revenues and expenditure even in critical social sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation. Before the crisis his country had been on course to meet all but one of the MDGs relating to the environment. Without assistance from the international community, Zambia might now reach only one of those goals.

76. High transportation costs ascribable to Zambia's landlocked status had made matters worse. Zambia had responded with a number of policy measures, including diversifying the economy by developing agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing, and by improving the business environment. Nevertheless, a coordinated global response was required. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the leadership of the United Nations at the World Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. As a co-facilitator, together with Norway, of the Ad Hoc Working Group that would follow up on the issues addressed in the Outcome of the Conference, his delegation pledged to carry out its role effectively and invited advice and suggestions from Member States.

77. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remained the most appropriate forum for international negotiations on climate change, and international efforts to address climate change must be channelled and coordinated through it. Zambia expected the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to reach an agreement in Copenhagen that would provide massive, scaled-up and predictable support for implementation and consolidate an international programme of work on implementation of

adaptation measures, established in a binding legal instrument under the Convention.

78. With regard to mitigating the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, an equitable burden-sharing mechanism should be adopted under which developed countries would commit to absolute and legally binding emissions reductions and developing countries would take meaningful action to ensure substantial deviations from business as usual.

79. The inclusion of sustainable development on the Committee's agenda required that sufficient time be allocated for serious discussions of all matters pertaining to poverty, trade, finance and partnerships, among others. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of the item on agriculture development and food security and hoped that its inclusion would strengthen the agriculture programme of the United Nations and yield real benefits to the developing countries.

80. **Mr. Alkulaib** (Kuwait) urged further discussion of the causes of the recent global financial crisis and of ways to avoid similar crises in the future. Resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait in January 2009 aimed at achieving economic prosperity, social advancement and sustainable development. He underscored the commitment of his country to the Outcome adopted at the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development in June 2009.

81. With regard to climate change, his country had high hopes for the Copenhagen conference and urged States to work together to achieve positive results. In that connection, Kuwait had pledged US$ 150 million at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries for research on energy and climate change.

82. The Committee should devote sufficient attention to matters relating to poverty and starvation and seek practical solutions to alleviate the plight of the poor. It also should devote similar attention to the question of total and permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their land, including East Jerusalem, and the question of providing the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan with sovereignty over their natural resources.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.